Startups San Antonio Resource Guide

Welcome to San Antonio’s startup community!

Here’s a list of startup resources to get you started on your journey as an entrepreneur in San Antonio. This page will be updated as San Antonio's ecosystem evolves, so if you see something missing, please reach out to us at editor@startupssanantonio.com.

If you missed the pitching workshop I gave during San Antonio Startup Week 2018, you can download the presentation slides here: Pitch Deck Workshop Oct 23, 2018, by Iris Gonzalez: How to Create Your 1st Pitch Deck.

Latest Startup Events

Check out the latest startup-related San Antonio events at the SA Business Calendar. Their comprehensive calendar (started by this San Antonio startup team) lists business events in San Antonio, including startup, tech, cybersecurity, and bioscience-focused ones.

San Antonio Startup Listing

The Alamo Angels are a group of business leaders and corporate sponsors who invest in local business growth. Alamo Angel’s directory of San Antonio startups has over 400 startup companies.

Geekdom also has an internal directory of its startup members developing their companies or operating them at the co-working space. Contact Geekdom for more information on member startups at info@geekdom.com.

STEM Student Learning and Entrepreneurship

There are many student entrepreneurship programs and resources. Below are just some of those organizations focused on student STEM and entrepreneurship in San Antonio.

The City of San Antonio has applied to become a STEM Learning Ecosystem Initiative city in which STEM learning stakeholders coordinate efforts to help students join the future STEM and STEAM workforce. A more comprehensive listing of the STEM learning resources is currently in development and will be available later in 2018. Below are some of the organizations focused on STEM learning.

- SASTEMIC
- Youth Code Jam
- Rackspace Open Cloud Academy
- VentureLab
The Social Innovation Lab is an eight-week program for students from Alamo Colleges, St. Mary’s University, Trinity University, University of Incarnate Word, and community members interested in launching a social enterprise.

- Trinity University’s Students + Startups
- UTSA’s CITE technology entrepreneurship boot camp
- UTSA’s CEO (collegiate entrepreneurs organization) incubator community for students
- Ghostwire Academy (IT and cybersecurity-focused)
- CAST Tech High School mentoring program
- Alamo Colleges’ The Learning Company
- CS4TX San Antonio (grades K-12 computer science education Meetup group)

**Startup Programs**

San Antonio’s list of boot camps, incubators, and accelerators is growing. Startup boot camps can be an entry into the startup community by teaching basic skills in entrepreneurship or by acting like highly compressed incubators. An incubator primarily aims to help the entrepreneur vet, validate, and refine their proposed solution. An accelerator generally takes a small percentage of equity in exchange for small amounts of capital and mentorship over the course of a coaching program ranging from three to six months.

San Antonio’s startup incubators, accelerators, and other entrepreneurial programs include those listed below and does not include entrepreneurial programs specifically designed for students.

- **Three-Day Startup San Antonio** is an intense weekend entrepreneurial short-format program.
- **Patriot Boot Camp** is a startup boot camp for military members.
- The EPIcenter incubator for sustainable energy startups launched in early 2018.
- **San Antonio Incubator for Clean Energy Startups** is run by the University of Texas at San Antonio.
- InCube Labs biotech incubator works with promising bioscience startup companies.
- **BuildSec Foundry** is an incubator for cybersecurity startups based at Geekdom.
- **Geekdom's pre-accelerator program** launched in April 2018.
- **VelocityTX** has several incubator and accelerator programs available, check their website for the latest information.
- **Founder Institute** offers a 14-week founder-focused incubator training program starting in winter 2018/early 2019.
- **Scaleworks** is an aggregator, investor, and accelerator for business-to-business SaaS [software-as-a-service] startups.
- The **RealCo 15-month accelerator program** is headquartered out of Geekdom with a second location in Colorado.
- **Break Fast & Launch** is the first culinary startup accelerator in the U.S.
- The **TMCx medical tech innovation program** offers shared workspace, a curriculum tailored to healthcare entrepreneurs and access to over 120 specialized mentors.
- **Maestro Entrepreneur Center** offers a mentored accelerated program for entrepreneurs.
- **LiftFund Women’s Business Center** has multiple resources for female entrepreneurs.
LaunchSA partners with LiftFund and the San Antonio Economic Development Department to offer programs and mentorship.

One Million Cups provides networking and support for entrepreneurs.

Bunker Labs offers military members, veterans, and their families entrepreneurial resources and programs.

SCORE (San Antonio chapter) is a source of mentoring for small business owners.

UTSA Small Business Development Center offers programs for entrepreneurs, not just their students.

CivTechSA offers residencies for startups working to address civic challenges for the City of San Antonio.

Industry Education and Training

- Codeup (coding and data science programs)
- San Antonio Coding Academy (coding program)
- Rackspace Open Cloud Academy (coding program)
- Tech Talent South (coding and web development classes for adults and children)
- Dynamic Advancement (IT and cybersecurity-focused training)
- Microsoft Software and Systems Academy (cybersecurity and IT training program for military members)
- Red Cell (nonprofit cybersecurity/IT training, workforce development, and placement)
- Red Knight (cybersecurity training for Red Cell students)
- DC Industries (IT and cyber training for veterans)

San Antonio Co-Working Spaces

San Antonio has a variety of available co-working spaces that suit a founder's needs for location, access, budget, benefits, and vibe. Co-working spaces offer startups the opportunity to work in a shared working environment. Many smaller companies not belonging to the same organization typically co-habit the space. Using co-working spaces offers an affordable option for those first starting a company. Many co-working spaces provide added benefits such as working alongside other members of a startup community, conference meeting spaces, mailboxes, and event space.

Here are the co-working spaces currently available in San Antonio:

- Geekdom
- Venture X
- The Workery
- The Impact Guild
- Alamo City Studios
- Cubes at the Quonset
- Annex Co-Working
- The Parish
- CO | LAB Coworking Space
- Legacy Office Centers
As of Nov. 9, 2018 Source: www.StartupsSanAntonio.com

- Moade Center
- LiftOff
- Common Space
- VenturePoint (two locations)
- Regus (multiple locations)
- San Antonio Technology Center
- WeWork is opening its first location in San Antonio in 2019
- Alamo Kitchens is a culinary co-working space

Networking Groups

San Antonio is experiencing growth in its startup networking groups with a STEM focus. Many meetups with sizable membership (500+) are listed below.

- Geekdom
- Startup Grind San Antonio
- San Antonio Technology Center
- San Antonio New Tech Meetup
- Growing with Artificial Intelligence Meetup
- Lisk Blockchain Meetup
- Bitcoin Trading Meetup
- Cyber Def Dojo (cybersecurity) Meetup
- San Antonio Women Developers
- Alamo City Python Meetup
- Data Science Meetup
- Tech Talent South Meetup
- Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) Meetup
- UI-UX Meetup
- 10Bit Works Meetup (tech-focused maker space)
- Learn to Code Meetup
- Web Technology Meetup
- Alamo Inventors Meetup
- Greater Gaming Society
- International Game Developers Association

Supporting Infrastructure

Supporters and Advocates

- Tech Bloc is a technology industry advocacy organization in San Antonio.
- CyberSecurity Council San Antonio (San Antonio Chamber of Commerce) or CSSAtx serves as the hub for all things cyber in the San Antonio region, including military and government affairs; talent, education and workforce development; global engagement; sustainability; and innovation and economic development.
• **BioMed SA** or the Healthcare Bioscience Development Corporation is a San Antonio advocacy organization that strives to build upon the city's impressive base of biomedical assets and raise its visibility nationally and beyond.

• **San Antonio Economic Development Department** (SAEDD) works on behalf of the City of San Antonio on business infrastructure needs, incentives and quality workforce training programs.

• **San Antonio Economic Development Foundation** (SAEDF) is a private, nonprofit organization to drive San Antonio’s economic growth by recruiting new business to San Antonio and helping local companies stay and grow.

**Lawyers**

Eventually, every founder will need a lawyer who understands the unique requirements for startups. Startup legal services in San Antonio include:

• Tech lawyers Debra Innocenti-Placette and David Jones (tech startups, as well as tech legal issues): [Innocenti Jones PLLC](#)

• Patents lawyer Samar Shah (specializing in STEM startups): [Shah IP Law PLLC](#)

• San Antonio lawyer Van Lindberg (intellectual property matters and the intersection of technology and law): [Van Lindberg at Dykema Cox Smith](#)

• San Antonio lawyer Stephanie Chandler (works with companies in early stages through significant liquidity events, technology licensing, commercialization): [Stephanie Chandler at Jackson Walker](#)

• [Langley & Banack](#) has a group of cybersecurity, data protection, and privacy attorneys who specialize in helping clients minimizing a company’s risks from a data breach.

**Funding**

There are over 50 San Antonio-based investors listed in the [Alamo Angel’s investor directory](#). Other venture funds, investors, and possible sources of funding such as loans in San Antonio are listed below:

• [Geekdom Fund](#)

• HOLT Ventures

• Fraser-McCombs Capital

• USAA

• Targeted Technologies

• Scaleworks Venture Finance Fund

• LiftFund

• Tectonic Ventures

• Fountainhead Investors

• InCube Ventures

• SAEFD

• [Live Oak Ventures](#) Texas early stage venture capital fund

• Central Texas Angel Network

• [Active Capital](#) is based in Texas, but will invest in founders across the US.
• See also Silicon Hills Lawyer’s website listing of investors interested in Texas startups.
• Pacific Northwest-based Rogue Venture Partners has partner Adam Stoll based in San Antonio who is willing to talk to local startups about financing paths.

More Startup Resources: Podcasts, Checklists, and Books

STEM- and startup-centric podcasts are emerging in San Antonio. There are a couple of new podcasting studios coming online later in 2018, so expect the list to grow. Here are some podcasts and radio shows to get you started.

• Jungle Disk's CEO Bret Piatt interviews local experts and founders about cybersecurity on Cyber Talk Radio.
• The Brand Brothers podcast from Geekdom Media shares branding and marketing expertise.
• Obey Your Strengths podcast from Geekdom Media focuses on how to leverage your StrengthsFinder results.
• The SA Tech Radio show features interviews with local tech founders and leaders.
• The B Libre podcast is focused on Bitcoin cryptocurrency.
• The Wild West Crypto Show is all about cryptocurrency.
• TXBiobytes science podcast from Texas Biomed shares the latest from the research institution.
• The South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases' science podcast Microtalk covers infectious disease.
• Red Wing's Oil and Gas HSE Podcast covers operations and health, safety and environmental — or HSE — issues in the oil and gas industry.
• devmap is a podcast for junior developers.

For founders needing to learn how to approach investors, here's a due diligence checklist from the Central Texas Angel Network website.

Don't forget to read books at every stage of your startup. This reading list offers great choices from your first harried days onward.